



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol.3, Issue 2
March 1, 2002

Calendar Of Events

Mar. 2 nd , Saturday	Horticultural Extravaganza, 9:00am-3:00pm, St Lukes
Mar. 4 th , Monday	Lawn Mowing Clinic, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Tabb Library, (See article)
Mar. 6 th , Wednesday	Using Office Resources to Respond to Calls, 9:00am-Noon, Extension Office
Mar. 11 th , Monday	Lawn Mowing Clinic, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Tabb Library, (See article)
Mar. 12 th , Tuesday	Programming Meeting, 9:30am-Noon, St. Lukes room 21, (See article)
Mar. 15 th , Friday	Green Thumb Deadline!
Mar. 16 th , Saturday	Home Gardener Clinic, 9:00am-Noon, St. Joan of Arc Church, off Rt. 17
Mar. 18 th , Monday	Lawn Mowing Clinic, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Tabb Library, (See article)
Mar. 19 th , Tuesday	Kathy VanMullekon, 7:00pm, Kingston Parish House, Mathews, (See article)
Mar. 20 th , Wednesday	Dr. Cathey, 10:00am, Queens Lake Club House, Williamsburg, (See article)
Mar. 25 th , Monday	Lawn Mowing Clinic, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Tabb Library, (See article)
Apr. 9 th , Tuesday	Landscape Diagnostic Clinic 6:30pm Shady Bluff Pt Skimino Landing Est.(See article)
Apr. 13 th , Saturday	Gardening 2002, 8am, Christopher Newport University, (See article)
Apr. 18 th , Thursday	Landscape Diagnostic Clinic 6:30pm East Queens Dr. Queens Lake, (See article)
	Norfolk Botanical Garden Events – Phone number 441-5838
Mar. 23 rd , Saturday	Virginia Camellia Society Spring Show and Sale, 10am
Apr. 6 th , Saturday	Hands on Camellia Workshop, 9:30am-2:00pm, (Free)
Apr. 18 th , Thursday	Southern Living Gardening School, Tickets on sale now, order early
	Fred Heutte Lecture Series 2002, General Admission \$5.00
Mar. 21 st , Thur	Jim Wilson's "Bulletproof Flowers for the South," 7:30pm

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Editors Note: My goal is to provide as complete a listing on this calendar as possible, preferably 2 months out. Even if you don't have time to do a complete article, please email me with the who, what, when & where info.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Teresa Bennett at 875-0026, e-mail: BennettTeresaH@aol.com. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exceptions.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement: Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

Jim's Notes

Using the Resources in the Extension Office to Respond to Calls, March 6, 2002, 9:00am until 12:00 noon

I am scheduling this class, on a monthly basis, so that new and old Master Gardeners can become familiar with the surroundings of the office. I will show you where the library is and how to use it or check out books for your reading or research. I will show you some resources (answers to questions) found in the computer system, discuss where main files and publications are located. It is a good way to break the ice and learn how to respond on the phone. Answering the phones is not as scary as one might think because I will teach the line- "I do not know, but I will find the answer and get back with you." Works every time. See you then. Preregister for this class by calling 890-4940. Limited to 5 per session.

I want to sincerely thank everyone in the program that is hustling, preparing, calling, and evaluating programs. We have the Horticultural Extravaganza, The Home Gardener Program, and the Pruning Clinics all going on at the same time. Whew! That is the work of many volunteers coming together to make all of this happen. You are to be commended for this work and it shows in the success of these programs. Thanks to everyone.

Did You Know?? The office is asked to give educational programs to clubs, groups, and homeowner associations on a routine basis. We schedule Master Gardeners to speak to these clubs. Master Gardeners are good spokespersons for Cooperative Extension and the Master Gardeners Program. We enlist new Master Gardeners because the club members heard you speak highly of the program and they are interested in becoming a part of this success. If you are a member of a group that would like to have an educational program, please contact me and I will work towards scheduling a Master Gardener to give a presentation.

You are aware of matters with the state budget. Cooperative Extension has taken preliminary action on matters such as: canceling specific in-service education classes, eliminating the annual administrative update for all agents, no printing of extension agriculture and natural resources publications (print as needed from web or suggest that the homeowner go to the site), hiring freeze, reducing unit operating budgets by 9%, agents reduce travel dollars, no out-of-state travel, and some other matters. Extension has not made other hard decisions such as staff reductions. You all will remember those days in 1994-1995. What we must remember at this point are these facts. We are not a mandated service. We share and receive our resources with the Federal, State, and Local governments. That means that when budgets are tight, the partnership dynamics are discussed. We exist to extend the resources of our Land Grant Universities to the citizens of York County. We will continue this mission and I thank you for buying into that mission.

The York County Extension Leadership Council (Debbie Frecker is the Master Gardener serving on the council) has been an active advocate for the York County Cooperative Extension Office. They delivered an in depth presentation to the board on November 20 and on February 5, when Debbie Frecker addressed the board in support of the Extension (locally funded) budget. At this point, the office has very good local support. We will keep you informed of developments.

The Home Gardener Program is using a textbook to help students to understand the concepts being taught. We ordered 200 of these books with the thought that maybe local Master Gardeners would want (not required) to buy it at the discounted rate (\$12.00). The book is Taylor's Guide to Gardening Techniques ISBN 0-395-56403-4. Houghton Mifflin Company of Boston publishes it. If you want a copy please purchase your copy by March 8. After that I am going to give the remaining unsold books to the coordinators in other units for their sale to Master Gardeners. Checks are best and please make them payable to York County 4-H Activities Fund. When you buy a book, please mark the tally sheet so that we can keep up with these books.

(continued)

Jim's Notes *(continued)*

1383 bulk mail registration forms for the Horticultural Extravaganza have been mailed. The Extravaganza will be held on March 2 at St. Luke's. Should folks want a registration form they can call us or go to www.yorkcounty.gov/vce go to upcoming events and find the extravaganza. These registration forms are at every garden center and true value hardware in York County for ease of pick up also.

The Home Gardener Program sponsored on the Peninsula has 45 individuals signed up. We are very encouraged by that number. We have representation from the Hampton Roads Area- Norfolk, Virginia Beach as well as Smithfield and the Peninsula units. The program began on Saturday February 16 at 9 am at St. Joan of Arc off of Route 17. The books are ready, the instructors are ready, and we have moderators for each session. This course is not for Master Gardeners. We are encouraging Master Gardeners to help us by evaluating and reviewing the class as well as responding to the horticultural questions.

We registered 219 recertification participants at the Horticultural Conference.

Kathy V. is very willing to advertise your classes to the public. She needs lead time to plan the column, but the publicity is great. The phone has been ringing off of the hook for pruning crape myrtle publications, mentioned in a recent column. She can be reached at 247-4781 or e mail to kvanmullekom@dailypress.com.

Terry's Notes

At our last meeting, we welcomed a new Master Gardener, Charlotte Schrader who has recently relocated to York County. Our Programming Meetings have become so popular that beginning in March, we will meet in a larger room. I've scheduled room 21 (just past the office from the old room) for us. Thank you to everyone for being so involved and attending the meetings. There is so much information shared at the meetings that I think you'll find it time well spent. But I remind all of the MGs in charge of a program that the only way you can reach ALL York County MGs is through the Green Thumb. Get a short informational article about your program, to Teresa no later than the 15th of each month. Please include dates and any other useful info. Also, remember to wear your MG shirt (if you have one), especially when participating in a group presentation or activity. And lastly, thank you to our speaker and all of you who attended the General Membership Meeting on Feb 28th. Remember, it counts towards your educational hours. See you on March 12th, 9:30-11:30, Room 21 at St. Luke's.

Master Gardner Awards

We are trying to update our database. If you have donated enough hours to receive a pin or certificate, BUT have never received that pin or certificate, please contact Terry Hanson with your info. The hour milestones are: 50, 250, 750, 1000, 2000 and 3000.

The Sharp Shears

The Pruning Team is drawing its pruning season to a close now. We will be giving two Clinics in March in conjunction with the Norfolk Master Gardeners' Training and with the new Home Gardener Program.

Looking ahead, in October we will need several volunteers to help out with the Master Gardener Training Program held at New Quarter Park in Queens Lake each October. This will be a joint effort from all the area Master Gardeners. Please give me a call if you are interested in helping out with this training.

Keep those shears sharp, Marilyn Moren.

The Green Thumb Newsletter is prepared for York County Extension Volunteers by



James Orband, Extension Agent/
Agriculture

and

Shirlee Kimmel, Extension Volunteer



Start Seeds & Cuttings For May 4th. Plant Sale

Recent warm weather has permitted an early start on Spring cleanup tasks. This is an ideal time to divide your perennials for the May 4th Learning Garden Plant Sale. In response to customer requests during our fall sale, we suggest a variety of different plants, to include, Hellebores (Lenten Rose), Heuchera (Coral Bells), Dicentra (Bleeding Heart), Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower), ferns, etc. It also would be great if some gardeners would start perennials and annuals from seed for the plant sale.

If anyone has plants, but no time to 'pot them up', they can bring them to the learning garden any Thursday morning in March and early April, and we'll pot them up for the sale. Early potting, and starting plant divisions and cuttings now, will give plants time to develop a good root system by May.

Learning Garden volunteers have planted several thousand Spring bulbs donated by Brent and Becky's Bulbs of Gloucester. These and the flowering shrubs should have the garden in beautiful bloom for the May plant sale and tours of the garden.

Gardening 2002

Gardening 2002 will be held at CNU on Saturday April 13th. The cost is \$13 per person including lunch. The day will start at 8 AM with registration. The keynote speaker is Bonnie Appleton (Favorite Plants for Tidewater Gardens). The six speakers we have scheduled are 1) Dr. David Bankes, " Garden Sculpture", 2) Jim Orband, "A Calendar of Insect Problems Through the Year, 3) Wesley Greene, "Under the Knife - Topiary", 4) Charlotte Hundley, " A rose for every home - A bush for every garden", 5) Billi Parus, "Herb Gardening" and 6) Tony Espisoto, "Vegetable Gardening". Participants will be able to pick two workshops to attend (one in the morning and one in the afternoon). The rest of this informative day will include a flower arranging show and campus garden tours. There will also be many display tables set up and several groups will be selling plants (i.e., rose society, herb society, CNU horticultural club). Kathy VanMullekom has provided gifts for drawings. York County Master Gardeners will need to provide 12 people to moderate. They want two for each workshop (one to give a brief intro of the speaker and the other to help distribute any literature, etc). The same moderators will do both the AM and PM shift. Of course, all twelve get in free. Please contact Barbara Dunbar if you would like to moderate, or if you need more information. Contact Barbara at either work or home (766-2174 Home, 269-2230 work) or via email TWOTAC@aol.com.

On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinics Scheduled

The on-site landscape diagnostic clinics have been scheduled for spring 2002. Six clinics will be offered throughout the county during April and May. Each clinic starts at 6:30 PM. and will last approximately 75 minutes. At each clinic, Master Gardeners make a 15–20 minute presentation on common landscape problems and issues. Following the presentation, a tour of the landscape is conducted, pointing out problems and issues and suggesting solutions. Jim Orband and the Master Gardeners also answer participants' horticultural questions. Approximately three weeks prior to each clinic, Jim Orband, and the MG assistants for the clinic, visit and preview the landscape site to identify problems or issues. The MGs then research the issues and prepare the presentation for the clinic. Any MG interested in assisting with one or more of the clinics should contact Margie Tully at 898-6284 or at mtully@ctb.com.

Scheduled Clinics:

Tuesday	April 9 th	Shady Bluff Pt.	Skimino Landing Estates	Williamsburg
Thursday	April 18 th	East Queens Dr.	Queens Lake	Williamsburg
Wednesday	May 1 st	Port Cove	Olde Port Cove	Tabb
Tuesday	May 7 th	Barn Swallow Ridge	Grafton Woods	Grafton
Thursday	May 16 th	Berry's Landing	off Dare Rd	Grafton
Tuesday	May 21 st	Valentine Circle	Lee's Village	Grafton

Youth Lawn Mowing Class

The Extension Office is offering a free class for youth (age 10 and up) interested in mowing lawns as a summer business or to help out at home. Safety will be emphasized, as well as proper care of the lawn, cutting technique, lawn mower maintenance and customer, employee interaction skills. A field trip to a lawn mower maintenance shop is planned. Graduates will receive a special "cut above" lawn-mowing certificate. The series of 4 one-hour classes will be held Mondays in March. The first meeting will be held Monday, March 4th at 7PM at the Tabb Library. Please call the York County Extension Office 890-4940 to register.

Mower Mishaps

Have you or someone you know ever had a mower mishap? Have you had terror with a trimmer or done bloody battle with a blade? Has your limb lopper lopped limbs not on a tree?

These "don't do what I did" stories are valuable teaching tools for teens and 'tweens. Teri Cheslak is collecting these stories for the lawn safety segment of her class. If you are willing to share your story please email her at tcheslak@cox.net or call 874-8181.

Winter Lecture Series

The Mathews Master Gardeners would like to thank you for your help in advertising our Winter Lecture Series. Last month we had a record 150 attending Pamela Harper's lecture. Following you will find an article on the final lecture on March 19. Thanks in advance for your help in "getting the word out."

Marianne Rizzio 804-725-1414

Kathy Van Mullekom of Hampton Roads Gardening & Home Magazine will speak at 7 p.m. at Kingston Parish House in Mathews. Her topic will be "Winter Wakes Up to a Different Garden," a slide presentation of beautiful plants, trees, and shrubs that show their unique beauty during the winter months. Kathy has had a lifelong love of Gardening in Virginia and is a York County Master Gardener and a horticulture student at CNU. She is the gardening columnist for the Daily Press and writes the weekly "Diggin'In" column featured in the Home & Garden section of the Sunday newspaper. Van Mullekom's talk is free and the public is invited. This is the final presentation on the Winter Lecture Series sponsored by the Mathews Master Gardeners. Refreshments will follow the talk.

Dr. Cathey to Speak

The Queenslake Garden Club extends an invitation to York County Master Gardeners to attend a lecture. Dr. Marc Cathey will speak on Wednesday, March 20th, at 10.00 am with coffee etc. at 9.30 am at the Queens Lake Club House on East Queens. The subject will be "A Botanical Garden for Williamsburg". Please call Joanne Andrews 259-0867 if you would like to attend so that we will have enough coffee and chairs.

You may know of Dr. Cathey as his biography is pages long. He was Director of the U.S. National Arboretum and was instrumental in the organization of the USDA Plant Hardiness Map. He is President Emeritus of the American Horticultural Society and has been a frequent guest on NBC's *Today*, ABC's *Good Morning America* etc.

Jim said our group was the last group Dr Cathey took through the National Arboretum. Some MG's might remember him!

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